

October 2, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Under Secretary

FROM: INR - Roger Hilsman

SUBJECT: Summary of Recent Soviet Military Assistance to Cuba

Since July when the volume of Soviet military shipments to Cuba suddenly increased very substantially, 85 shiploads of various military items, supplies, and personnel have arrived. More ships are enroute.

*2 copies  
sent to  
2/14/62*

In part the Soviet shipments have consisted of types of weapons previously delivered to the Cuban armed forces including more tanks, self-propelled guns and other ground force equipment. The major tonnage however has been devoted to supplying SA-2 surface-to-air missiles (SAMS) together with all of the related gear and equipment necessary for their installation and operation. To date 15 SAM sites have been established in the island. We estimate the total may eventually reach 25.

In addition 3 (possibly 4) missile sites of a different type have been identified. These sites are similar to known coastal defense missile sites and are believed to accommodate Soviet anti-shiping missiles with a range of 20-35 miles. We expect that several more such sites will be installed.

Cuba is now estimated to have 60 older type MIG jet aircraft plus at least one advanced jet interceptor (MIG-21) recently received and probably several more in process of assembly. The MIG-21 is usually equipped with infrared air-to-air missiles. We estimate that the total of MIG-21s in Cuba may eventually reach 25-30.

Sixteen "Komar" class guided-missile patrol boats which carry two short range missiles (11-17 miles) were included in the new shipments.

About 4,500

About 4,500 Soviet military specialists have arrived including construction men and technicians.

If the SAM sites are to be operated solely by Cuban personnel six months to a year of training will be required.

There is a considerable amount of other new equipment which has not been precisely identified but it is believed to include a large quantity of electronic gear.

October 2, 1962

MEMORANDUM TO GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN:

Attached is the latest data. It was declassified by John McCone, who is the only person with the necessary authority, at 12:20 p.m. today.

McCone requests that Mr. Ball contrive a question from a Congressman as to sources so that Mr. Ball can reply that there are many different sources of which the many refugees are the principal one.

Roger Hilsman

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